

U.S. Application No.: herewith
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 4007.008

REMARKS

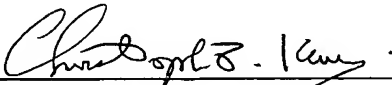
Claims 1-33 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and have been replaced by new claims 34-64, based upon previous claims 1-33 amended in order to eliminate multiple dependent claims, claims improperly depending from multiple dependent claims, and to otherwise conform the claims to U.S. practice.

The specification has been amended to recite that this application is a ***national stage*** of PCT/EP03/03827 filed April 12, 2003 and based upon European Application No. 02008831.6 filed April 19, 2002, under the International Convention.

Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added.

Entry and favorable consideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 19, 2004

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EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EV420487804US

DATE OF DEPOSIT: October 19, 2004

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Preliminary Amendment and a stamped receipt post card are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated with sufficient postage and is addressed: **ATTN: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application, except for the issue fee, without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 16-0877.



Bonnie L. Horst